

Record of Decisions

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 24 August 2021.

Decision

- (i) That the Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved,
- (ii) That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the Corporate Parenting Strategy become a Policy Framework document; and
- (iii) That following engagement with children and young people a further updated Corporate Parenting Strategy be prepared for consideration by Council.

Reason for the Decision

The current Corporate Parenting Strategy was out of date, having expired last year. The Council recognised that it was imperative that our cared for and care experienced young people were a part of developing a final version of the Strategy, and that work was currently underway. However, in the interim it was imperative that the Council had a Strategy that was current and reflective of our approach as a Council.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 7 September 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The current Corporate Parenting Strategy was out of date, having expired last year. In considering the tone of the previous strategy it was evident just how far the Council had travelled in its journey to a model of restorative practice and ensuring that our children were at the heart of everything we do as a Council. The Council recognised that it is imperative that our cared for and care experienced young people were a part of developing a final version of the Strategy, and that work was currently underway. However in the interim it was imperative that the Council had a Strategy that was current and was reflective of our approach as a Council.

At its meetings on 27 July and 18 August 2021, the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy and supported the recommendations as set out in the submitted report.

At the meeting of the Cabinet, Councillor Steve Darling proposed and Councillor Morey seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The current Corporate Parenting Strategy expired at the end of 2020. Whilst it was not a legal requirement to have the same, it was an essential element of Leadership, Management and

Governance within Children's Services, and therefore doing nothing was not an option.

The 2018-2020 Strategy could have been extended, however in respect of the tone of the same, it did not align with the Council's restorative practice approach and therefore this was not recommended.

Rather than approving this Strategy the Council could await the outcome of the work that was currently being undertaken with our cared for children and care experienced young people. However given it was out of date and the tone did not align with current practice this is not recommended.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

27 August 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet